

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY
PCT
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)
(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 10312.01/PC/PC	FOR FURTHER ACTION		See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/IB2008/050671	International filing date (day/month/year) 25.02.2008	Priority date (day/month/year) 04.10.2007	
<p>International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC INV. E04F15/02</p> <p>Applicant Sepa S.R.L.</p>			
<p>1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>7</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p>3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:</p> <p>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau</i> a total of <u>3</u> sheets, as follows:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis of this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in Item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> <i>(sent to the International Bureau only)</i> a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) , containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in electronic form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).</p>			
<p>4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the report</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the International application</p>			
Date of submission of the demand 2009-08-03	Date of completion of this report 22.03.2010		
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016	Authorized officer Severens, Gert Telephone No. +31 70 340-3360		

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT
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International application No.
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Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **language**, this report is based on
 - the international application in the language in which it was filed
 - a translation of the international application into , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
 - international search (under Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1(b))
 - publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4(a))
 - international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2(a) and/or 55.3(a))
2. With regard to the **elements*** of the international application, this report is based on (*replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report*):

Description, Pages

1-9 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-28 as originally filed

Drawings, Sheets

1/9-9/9 as originally filed

a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing

3. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
 - the description, pages
 - the claims, Nos.
 - the drawings, sheets/figs
 - the sequence listing (*specify*):
 - any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*):
4. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
 - the description, pages
 - the claims, Nos. 1-20
 - the drawings, sheets/figs
 - the sequence listing (*specify*):
 - any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*):
5. This opinion has been established taking into account the **rectification of an obvious mistake** authorized by or notified to this Authority under Rule 91 (Rule 70.2 (e)).
6. Supplementary international search report(s) from Authority(ies) have been received and taken into account in drawing up this report (Rule 45bis.8(b) and (c)).

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Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

1. The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non-obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been examined in respect of:

the entire international application,
 claims Nos. 17-28

because:

the said international application, or the said claims Nos. relate to the following subject matter which does not require an international preliminary examination (*specify*):
 the description, claims or drawings (*indicate particular elements below*) or said claims Nos. are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):
 the claims, or said claims Nos. are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*).
 no international search report has been established for the said claims Nos. 17-28
 a meaningful opinion could not be formed without the sequence listing; the applicant did not, within the prescribed time limit:
 furnish a sequence listing on paper complying with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions, and such listing was not available to the International Preliminary Examining Authority in a form and manner acceptable to it.
 furnish a sequence listing in electronic form complying with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions, and such listing was not available to the International Preliminary Examining Authority in a form and manner acceptable to it.
 pay the required late furnishing fee for the furnishing of a sequence listing in response to an invitation under Rules 13ter.1(a) or (b) and 13ter.2.
 a meaningful opinion could not be formed without the tables related to the sequence listings; the applicant did not, within the prescribed time limit, furnish such tables in electronic form complying with the technical requirements provided for in Annex C-bis of the Administrative Instructions, and such tables were not available to the International Preliminary Examining Authority in a form and manner acceptable to it.
 the tables related to the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing, if in electronic form only, do not comply with the technical requirements provided for in Annex C-bis of the Administrative Instructions.
 See separate sheet for further details

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Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention

1. In response to the invitation to restrict or pay additional fees, the applicant has, within the applicable time limit:
 - restricted the claims.
 - paid additional fees.
 - paid additional fees under protest and, where applicable, the protest fee.
 - paid additional fees under protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid.
 - neither restricted the claims nor paid additional fees.
2. This Authority found that the requirement of unity of invention is not complied with and chose, according to Rule 68.1, not to invite the applicant to restrict or pay additional fees.
3. This Authority considers that the requirement of unity of invention in accordance with Rules 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3 is:
 - complied with.
 - not complied with for the following reasons:
see separate sheet
4. Consequently, this report has been established in respect of the following parts of the international application:
 - all parts.
 - the parts relating to claims Nos. 1-16.

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims
	No: Claims <u>1-16</u>
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims
	No: Claims <u>1-16</u>
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims <u>1-16</u>
	No: Claims

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7):

see separate sheet

Re Item IV

Lack of unity of invention

1 This Authority found two groups of inventions in this international application :

1. claims 1 - 16: flooring element with hooking means;
2. claims 1, 17, 18-28: flooring element with a support spacer.

1.1 The Authority is of the opinion that in the present application two inventions are claimed.

1.2 DE-A-19940837 (D1; cf. Fig. 30a-c) discloses a flooring element [suitable for a modular floor], as claimed in claim 1 [panel element (230); first and second fastening elements (227, 228, 229 231)].

1.3 The features of claims 2-6 are equally known from D1. Furthermore, the features of claims 7 and 8, although not directly described from D1 per se, are also known from D1 since the bearing (228) with a rounded head slides "easier" in a corresponding portion of the other analogous flooring element. Eventhough one of the features of claim 9 is equally known from D1 (e.g. the bearing having a pin, arranged for engaging and slide in the corresponding zone of the element), it is clear that the bearing, being a rolling bearing with a body made of self-lubricated material is not known from D1 and therefore can be considered as the special technical features (STF's) of the first invention, as defined in Rule 13.2 PCT, thereby solving the problem of providing a flooring element having a secure fastening system, such that the flooring is resistant to the stresses during the use and cannot be easily dismantled by tangential stresses (see e.g. descr. p. 1 l. 25-27).

The special technical features of the other invention, as defined in Rule 13.2 PCT, can therefore be considered to be

2. a support spacer arranged for supporting a panel and spacing it from the surface on which the support spacer rests, solving the problem of providing a modular floor that lend itself to be assembled quickly (see descr. p. 1. l. 27-28).

1.4 The two respective groups of STF's mentioned above are obviously not the same. Furthermore they cannot be regarded as being corresponding since they aim to solve different problems as defined above.

1.5 Consequently there is no technical relationship between the two groups of Inventions involving the same or corresponding STF's (cf. Rule 13.2 PCT), and the requirement of unity set out in Rule 13.1 PCT is not fulfilled.

Re Item V

Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

2 The amendments filed with the International Bureau under Article 19(1) introduce subject-matter which extends beyond the content of the application as filed, contrary to Article 19(2) PCT. The amendments concerned are the following:

- according to the new claim, the first fastening system comprises hooking recesses and hooking brackets. This formulation also includes more than two recesses resp. brackets. However, from the formulation on p. 4, l. 3-9 the first fastening system comprises two hooking recesses and two hooking brackets.
- still according to claim 1 (see p. 2 of claims, l. 12-14*), the "bracket couples with another analogous flooring element so as to allow a sufficient displacement... easily assembled". According to the description the brackets are suitably articulated or elastic enough so as to allow a sufficient displacement of the brackets".

*according to the letter of reply this amendment refers to claim 10, however claim 11 appears to be more appropriate.

3 The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(2) PCT, because the subject-matter of claim 1 is not new.

3.1 Document D1 discloses - with reference to fig. 30a-c - a flooring element, comprising

- a panel element (226); and
- a first and (implicitly) a second fastening system where the panel element in its turn comprises a walk face (230), a back face, a first fixing side and a second fixing side (see fig. 30b). The first fastening system (227, 228, 231) is arranged for fastening the flooring element to an analogous second flooring element of the modular floor preventing its relative displacement at least along a first assembling direction (see fig. 30a); the second fastening system is arranged for fastening together the second fixing side of the flooring element and a fixing side of a third analogous flooring element so as to prevent the relative displacement between the flooring element and the third analogous flooring element at least along a second assembling direction transversal to the first assembling direction.

The subject-matter of present claim 1 is therefore deprived of novelty, Article 33(2) PCT.

3.2 Reference is also made to other documents, these documents also disclose a flooring element according to present claim 1:

- D2: EP-A-1 400 641 - cf. fig. 1: panel (1, 2) with first and (implicit) second fastening system (8);
- D3: GB-A-2 307 260 - cf fig. 1: panel (1) with first and second fastening system (6, 7)

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- D4: DE 102 53 553 A1 - cf. fig. 18.

4 Dependent claims 2-16 do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of novelty and/or inventive step, the reasons being as follows:

- claims 2-16 known from D1;
- claims 2-14, 16 known from D2;
- claims 2-6 known from D3;
- claims 2, 3 known from D4;

5 Present claims 1-16 are considered to be industrially applicable and therefore meet the criteria of Article 33(4) PCT.

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~~analogous bearing element (1, 1', 1").~~

7. Flooring element (1, 1', 1") according to ~~claim 4~~, wherein the hooking system comprises a bearing (407, 607) arranged for allowing the hooking system (404, 604) to slide easier against and/or in the corresponding portion (44, 64) of the other analogous flooring element (1, 1', 1").

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5 8. Flooring element (1, 1', 1") according to ~~claim 6~~, wherein the hooking bracket (404, 604) comprises a protrusion (405, 605) on which the bearing (407, 607) is fixed, said bearing (407, 607) being arranged for allowing the hooking bracket (404, 604) to slide easier against and/or in the corresponding portion (44, 64) of the other analogous flooring element (1, 1', 1").

5

6 9. Flooring element (1, 1', 1") according to ~~claim 7 or 8~~, wherein the bearing (407, 607) comprises one or more elements chosen from the following set:

- a rolling bearing;
- 15 - a friction bearing;
- a body made of self-lubricated material;
- a body made of polyamide (nylon, PA), polyethylenterephthalate (PET), polytetrafluoroethylene (teflon, PTFE), acetic resin (POM, that is polyoxymethylene) and mixtures thereof;
- a body made of plastic material having a friction coefficient equal to \pm 30% of the friction 20 coefficient of teflon or nylon;
- a body made of wood, glass, ceramic material, steel, bronze, brass, aluminum, cast iron, zinc and relative alloys, metal in general;
- a material having a coefficient of friction, with the material of the flooring element with which it is coupled, equal to or lower than 1;
- 25 - a material having a coefficient of friction, with the material of the flooring element with which it is coupled, equal to or lower than three times the friction coefficient of polyamide (nylon, PA) or of the polytetrafluoroethylene (teflon, PTFE);
- a substantially cylindrical body arranged so that its flanks engage and slide against and/or in the corresponding portion (44, 64) of the other analogous flooring element (1, 1', 1");
- 30 - a body having substantially smooth flanks and arranged for engaging and sliding against and/or in the corresponding portion (44, 64) of the other analogous flooring element (1, 1', 1");
- a pin arranged for engaging and slide against and/or in the corresponding zone (44, 64) of the other analogous flooring element (1, 1', 1");
- a pin having circular, oval or elliptic cross-sections;
- 35 -a pin the flanks of which form a surface of revolution.

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~~10. Flooring element (1, 1', a 1'') according to a claim from 7 to 9, wherein the bearing (407, 607) is arranged for moving perpendicularly to the plane in which the panel element (2) of the bracket lies, when the bearing couples with another analogous flooring element (1, 1', 1'').~~

5

~~11. Flooring element (1, 1', 1'') according to one or more claims from 6 to 10, wherein the hooking bracket (404, 604) is arranged for moving perpendicularly to the plane in which the panel element (2) of the bracket lies, when the bracket couples with another analogous flooring element (1, 1', 1'').~~

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~~12. Flooring element (1, 1', a 1'') according to a claim from 6 to 11, wherein the hooking system comprises a hooking recess (44, 64) arranged for engaging with a hooking bracket (404, 604) of another analogous flooring element (1, 1', 1'').~~

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~~13. Flooring element (1, 1', 1'') according to claim 12, wherein the hooking recess (44, 64) has a substantially oblong shape.~~

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~~14. Flooring element (1, 1', 1'') according to claim 12 or 13, wherein the hooking recess (44) comprises a first section (45) extending transversally to the edge of the flooring element (2) which is closest to the hooking recess (44).~~

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~~15. Flooring element (1, 1', 1'') according to claim 12 or 13, wherein the hooking recess (44) comprises a second section (47) extending longitudinally to the edge of the flooring element (2) closest to the hooking recess (44).~~

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~~16. Flooring element (1, 1', 1'') according to one or more claims from 12 to 15, wherein the hooking recess (44) forms a fold or elbow.~~

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~~17. Flooring element (1, 1', 1'') according to one or more preceding claims, comprising a support spacer (30) arranged for supporting a panel element (2) and spacing it from the surface on which the support spacer (30) rests.~~

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~~18. Flooring element (1, 1', 1'') for a modular floor, comprising:~~

a) a panel element (2);

35 b) a support spacer (30);

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~~wherein the panel element (2) in its turn comprises:~~

a.1) a walk face (20) arranged for forming a part of the walk surface of the modular floor, and
a.2) a back face (22) arranged in a position opposite to the walk face (20);

5 wherein the support spacer (30) is arranged for supporting the panel element (2) and spacing it from the surface on which the support spacer (30) rests.

19. Flooring element (1, 1', 1'') according to claim 18, further comprising a first fastening system (44, 404);

10 wherein the panel element (2) further comprises a first fixing side (4) and a second fixing side (6), arranged transversally one relative to the other; and wherein the first fastening system (44, 404) is arranged for fixing together the flooring element (1) and an analogous second flooring element (1', 1'', 1''', 1^{IV}) of the modular floor so as to prevent their relative displacements one relative to the other at least in a ~~first assembling direction (7)~~.

12 15 20. Flooring element (1, 1', 1'') according to ~~one or more claims from 17 to 19~~, comprising a plurality of support spacers (30), wherein at least some of the support spacers (30) are fixed to the panel element (2) by means of a threaded connection (33, 35), and the threaded connection (33, 35) is arranged for allowing its respective support spacer (30) to come unscrewed during the use of the flooring element (1, 1', 1'') and to contact the surface on which other support spacers (30) rest.

20 13 12 21. Flooring element (1, 1', 1'') according to claim 20, wherein the threaded connection (33, 35) is lubricated.

14 22. Flooring element (1, 1', 1'') according to ~~one or more claims from 17 to 21~~, wherein the support spacer (30) is provided with a pad body (31) which in its turn comprises a support end (31A) and an intermediate section (31B) connecting the support end (31A) and the panel element (2), and the support end (31A) is arranged for sliding on the surface on which the flooring element (1, 1', 1'') rests, with a friction smaller than the friction between such surface and the intermediate section (31B).

30 <-> according to claim 14
16 23. Method for providing a self-levelling floor, comprising the following steps:
- providing a flooring element (1, 1', 1'') having the features according to one or more claims ~~from 17 to 22~~;
- providing a plurality of support spacers (30) on the flooring element (1, 1', 1''), fixing at least 35 one support spacer (30) to the panel element (2) through a threaded connection (33, 35);

< 24. Method for providing a self-levelling floor, comprising the steps of:

- providing a plurality of flooring element ~~AMENDED SHEET~~ the claims from 1 to 14;
received at the EPO on Aug 03, 2009 18.13.00. Page 15 of 20 self-levelling floor. >

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-lubricating the threaded connection (33, 35) so as to allow its respective support spacer (30) to come unscrewed during the use of the flooring element (1, 1', 1'') and contact the surface on which other support spacers (30) rest.

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o)

5 24. Method according to claim 23, comprising the following steps:

- providing a self-levelling floor by assembling a plurality of flooring elements (1, 1', 1'') one with another, having the features according to one or more claims from 1 to 22;
- causing the threaded connection (33, 35) of at least one support spacer (30) of the self-levelling floor coming unscrewed, by producing vibrations in the self-levelling floor itself.

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25. Method according to claim 24, comprising the step of producing vibrations in the self-levelling floor by stepping on the self-levelling floor itself.

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26. Method for handling flooring elements, comprising the following steps:

- 15 - providing a flooring element (1, 1', 1'') having the features according to one or more claims from 1 to 22;
- providing a handling trolley (100), arranged for running on the surface on which the flooring element (1, 1', 1'') rests or has to rest, and provided with a handling protrusion (102) arranged for engaging and lifting the back face (22) of the flooring element (1, 1', 1'');
- 20 - providing the handling protrusion (102) under the flooring element (1, 1', 1''), and engaging it with the back face (22).

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27. Method for handling flooring elements according to claim 26, comprising the step of handling the flooring element (1, 1', 1'') by engaging the handling protrusion (102) with the back face (22) of the flooring element (1, 1', 1'').

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28. Method according to claim 26 or 27, comprising the step of engaging the handling protrusion (102) with the flooring element (1, 1', 1'') through a male/female connection.

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CLAIMS

1. Flooring element (1, 1', 1'') for a modular floor, comprising:

a) a panel element (2); and

b) a first (44, 404) and a second fastening system (64, 604, 80, 82);

wherein the panel element (2) in its turn comprises:

a.1) a walk face (20) arranged so as to form a part of the walk surface of the modular floor, and

a.2) a back face (22) arranged in a position opposite to the walk face (20);

a.3) a first fixing side (4) and a second fixing side (6), arranged transversally one to another;

a.4) a third fixing side (40), parallel to first fixing side (4), and a fourth fixing side (60) parallel to the second fixing side (6);

a.5) longitudinal tongue and groove joints provided on each one of and along said four sides having the function to prevent the flooring elements from being disconnected in directions normal to the plan of the panel elements (2);

wherein:

- the first fastening system (44, 404) is arranged for fastening the flooring element (1) to an analogous second flooring element (1', 1'', 1''', 1''IV) of the modular floor preventing its relative displacements at least along a first assembling direction (Y);

said first fastening system comprising hooking recesses (44), arranged near the first fixing side (4), and hooking brackets (404) arranged near the third fixing side (40), the hooking recesses (44) and the hooking brackets (404) being arranged in such a way that the hooking brackets (404) of a first modular flooring element (1) are mechanically engageable with corresponding hooking recesses (44) of a second modular flooring element (1') so as to keep the first fixing side (4) of the first modular element (1) connected to the third fixing side (40) of the second modular element (1'), preventing their mutual displacements in the first assembling direction (Y);

and wherein:

- the second fastening system (64, 604, 80, 82) is arranged for fastening together the second fixing side (6) of the flooring element (1) and a fixing side (4, 40, 60) of a third analogous flooring element (1', 1'', 1''', 1''IV) of the modular floor, so as to prevent the relative displacements between the flooring element (1) and the third analogous flooring element (1', 1'', 1''', 1''IV) at least along a second assembling direction (X) transversal to the first assembling direction (Y);

said second fastening system comprising a hooking recess (64), arranged near the second fixing side (6), and a hooking bracket (604) arranged near the fourth fixing side (60), the hooking recess (64) and the hooking bracket (604) being arranged in such way that the hooking bracket (604) of a third modular flooring element (1'') is mechanically engageable with the corresponding hooking recess

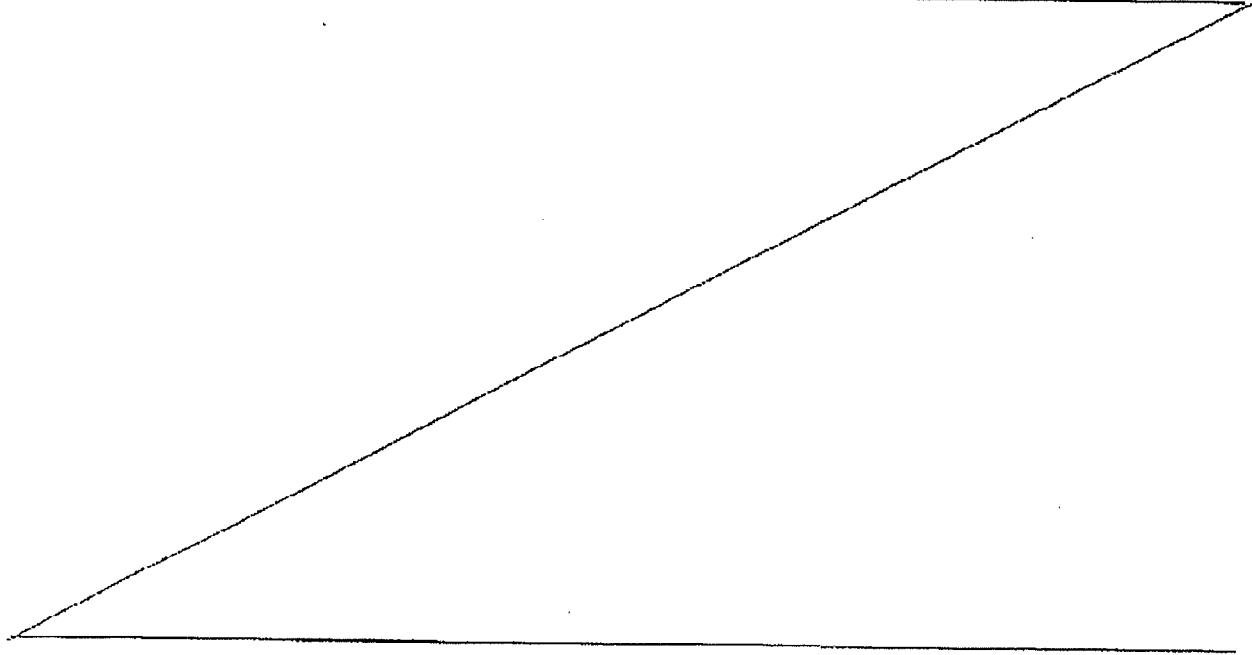
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(64) of the first modular flooring element (1) so as to keep the second fixing side (6) of the modular element (1) connected with the fourth fixing side (60) of the modular element (1"), preventing their mutual displacements in the second assembling direction (X), characterized in that,

said hooking brackets (404, 604) comprise a tongue made as a cantilever beam (405, 605), fixed on the panel element (2) so as to protrude out from the edge (40, 60) thereof and provided on their end with a bearing (407, 607) for allowing the hooking brackets (404, 604) to slide easier against and/or in the corresponding portion (44, 64) of the other analogous flooring element (1, 1', 1"), and in that

at least some of said brackets (604, 404), are arranged for moving perpendicularly to the plane in which the panel element (2) of the bracket lies, when the bracket couples with another analogous flooring element (1, 1', 1") so as to allow a sufficient displacement of the respective bearings (607, 407) in a direction normal to the plan in which the panel element (2) lies in order to allow the modular floor be easily assembled.

2. Flooring element (1, 1', 1") according to claim 1, wherein said at least some brackets are suitably articulated or elastic enough so as to allow said sufficient displacement of the respective bearings (607, 407) in a direction normal to the plan in which the panel element (2) lies.



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~~CLAIMS~~

1. Flooring element (1, 1', 1'') for a modular floor, comprising:

- a panel element (2); and
- b) a first (44, 404) and a second fastening system (64, 604, 80, 82);

wherein the panel element (2) in its turn comprises:

- a walk face (20) arranged so as to form a part of the walk surface of the modular floor, and
- a back face (22) arranged in a position opposite to the walk face (20);
- a first fixing side (4) and a second fixing side (6), arranged transversally one to another;

10 wherein the first fastening system (44, 404) is arranged for fastening the flooring element (1) to an analogous second flooring element (1', 1'', 1''', 1^{IV}) of the modular floor preventing its relative displacements at least along a first assembling direction (Y);

and wherein the second fastening system (64, 604, 80, 82) is arranged for fastening together the second fixing side (6) of the flooring element (1) and a fixing side (4, 40, 60) of a third analogous flooring element (1', 1'', 1''', 1^{IV}) of the modular floor, so as to prevent the relative displacements between the flooring element (1) and the third analogous flooring element (1', 1'', 1''', 1^{IV}) at least along a second assembling direction (X) transversal to the first assembling direction (Y).

20 3. Flooring element (1, 1', 1'') according to claim 1, wherein the first assembling direction (y) is parallel or coplanar to the walk face (20) and transversal to the first fixing side (4).

4. 3. Flooring element according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the second assembling direction (X) is parallel or coplanar to the walk face (20) and transversal to the second fixing side (6).

25 4. Flooring element according to a claim 1 to 3, wherein the first and/or second fastening system comprises a hooking system arranged for hooking mechanically the flooring element (1) to the second and/or the third analogous flooring element (1', 1'', 1''', 1^{IV}).

30 5. Flooring element according to claim 4, wherein the hooking system is arranged for hooking mechanically the flooring element (1) to the second and/or the third analogous flooring element (1', 1'', 1''', 1^{IV}) with a male/female connection.

35 6. Flooring element (1, 1', 1'') according to claim 4, wherein the hooking system comprises a locking bracket (104, 604) arranged for locking a corresponding portion (44, 64) of another

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